

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01274 211123Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, EEW, BU, LE, BE (ISPENTCHIAN)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES EMPLOYEE

REFS: A) SOFIA 1154; B) SOFIA 1262; C) SOFIA 1267;

D) STATE 142415

1. ABBOTT LABORATORIES OFFICERS SCHOELLHORN AND BERNIK HAD UNSUCCESSFUL AND DISCOURAGING SESSION WITH BULGARIAN OFFICIAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS SENIOR INVESTIGATOR.
2. AFTER PROMISING THAT BOLSTER, ISPENTCHIAN'S IMMEDIATE ABBOTT SUPERVISOR, WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH ISPENTCHIAN AT HOTEL (REFTEL A); ISPENTCHIAN DID NOT APPEAR BUT BOLSTER WHO WAS ALONG WAS THOROUGHLY QUESTIONED BY INVESTIGATORS.
3. ALL MEMBERS OF ABBOTT PARTY DEPARTED SOFIA JUNE 21. SCHOELLHORN GOING DIRECT TO CHICAGO AND EXPECTS TO CONTACT DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY.
4. WHEN CALLED TO MFA ON ANOTHER MATTER (REFTEL C), CHARGE INFORMED DEPUTY MINISTER ZAKHARIEVA OF CASE. SHE PROFESSED IGNORANCE. THEN CHARGE INFORMED HER THAT MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR POPOV (REFTEL D). CHARGE STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF CASE AND ASKED DEPUTY MINISTER TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN TRADE FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER LUKANOV ND SCHOELLHORN. SHE OFFERED SERVICES

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OF EIGHTH DEPARTMENT. LATTER WAS USELESS AND MEETING COULD

NOT BE ARRANGED THROUGH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY ON EXCUSE
LUKANOV HAD NO TIME SINCE HE WAS LEAVING FOR ROME EVENING
JUNE 20 TO ARRANGE FOR ZHIVKOV VISIT THERE EARLY NEXT WEEK.
VERY CLEAR BULGARIAN OFFICIALS DO NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED.
CHARGE ADVISED ABBOTT OFFICIALS AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO SEE
SECOND LEVEL OFFICIALS.

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